



## Planning for College - Senior Year

- Pray as you approach your final year of high school that God will help you to *finish strong* and *make wise decisions*.
- Choose your senior courses wisely. College admission can be determined by your senior course load.
- If you have narrowed your college choices consult them about your schedule choices; they may have a preference for your math or science choices based on your major.
- Visit colleges over the summer or in early fall.
- Work diligently to maintain your GPA (grade point average.) Don't be discouraged if your GPA is not where it should be; work diligently your senior year. Colleges look carefully at your most recent grades and course selections.
- Finish gathering information on colleges; select several and apply for admission. You may need letters of recommendation from teachers and counselors and may have to write an essay as part of the application. Allow yourself plenty of time to compile all the information you need.
- Allow at least a week for the Guidance office to prepare and send the transcript.
- The College admission process follows strict application deadlines; if you miss the deadline you risk not being considered for admission. Colleges do not make exceptions to their deadlines.
- Retake the SAT and ACT if you aren't satisfied with your first scores.
- If you haven't registered to take the ACT or SAT; sign up for the next test administration.
- Apply for national and local scholarships and grants.
- Keep a record of your extra-curricular activities and community service.
- Record all of your scholarship offers, even if you do not accept the scholarship.
- Develop the habit of reading whether it is books, newspapers or magazines. This exposure will improve your vocabulary and language skills which will help with future PSAT, SAT, and ACT scores.

## **SELECTING A COLLEGE**

- Establish your goals and interests.
- If you know what career interests you the most, find out what kind of education and training you'll need to work in that field.
- Make sure you are academically prepared for college and that you've taken the standardized tests that may be required for admission.
- Familiarize yourself with the different types of schools, and find out what characteristics to look for when selecting a school.
- Choose characteristics that are important to you.
- Gather information about schools.
- Make a short list of the schools that possess the characteristics you're looking for and that best meet your goals and needs.
- Request additional information from the schools on your list including an application for admission, costs, and financial aid.
- Apply for admission to the schools that top your list.
- Visit Other Internet Resources for more information.

## **FUNDING FOR COLLEGE**

1. Find out as much as you can about schools you are interested in attending. Request information on the cost of attendance, and try to calculate your school expenses.
2. Discuss options for paying for school. Also, talk to your High School counselor about applying for local or private scholarships. Many states also offer pre-paid tuition programs that are worthwhile to check out.
3. Request information and forms on financial aid, and complete admission applications.
4. Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which will help determine your need for financial aid.
5. Complete any other aid or admission forms required by the college. Receive your award letter. The letter, which comes from the school's financial aid office, will let you know what kind of financial aid, and how much, you qualify.
8. Consider the financial options outlined in the award letter. These options may include: grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study programs.
9. Accept or reject all or part of the award package, and complete any other forms required by the school.
10. Reapply for financial aid each year you are in college or postsecondary training. If you filled out a FAFSA the year before, you will probably be eligible to complete the shorter Renewal FAFSA.